

Women's Competition Review

Outline – 1 August 2016



OVERVIEW

Following feedback received from the Football Community a decision has been made to review the Capital Football women's and girl's competitions ahead of the 2017 football season.

The aim of the review is to analyse registration data, model alternate competition structures, measure those models against local football needs and Football Federation Australia (FFA) Women's National Premier League (NPL) criteria, and engage with the football community to gather feedback.

We aspire to deliver optimal competition structures in 2017 that consider player development and participation objectives, formulated using evidenced based decision making combined with a comprehensive community consultation.

CAPITAL FOOTBALL WOMEN'S FOOTBALL FORUM

We acknowledge that in August and September 2015 Capital Football conducted Female Football Forums to discuss topics of interest in the football community including; competition structures, administration, communication, technical development, coach education, refereeing and facilities.

The current review seeks to build on the previous consultation, and understand how application of changes in recent years has impacted participant satisfaction.

Further, we seek a more detailed engagement regarding competition structure. Capital Football will benefit from a more comprehensive understanding of the football community's thoughts on the optional number of divisions, teams per division and age grades.

Availability of participant feedback specific to community competitions and those provided to support the talented player pathway will help Capital Football better understand the participants needs and, combined with the data analysis, will promote evidence based decision making.

FFA NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES FOR WOMEN

Resulting from the outcomes of a National Women's Competition review conducted by FFA, a set of criteria was developed for a Women's National Premier League, with the aim of establishing consistent Member Federation competitions nationally from 2014.

The criteria aimed to;

- Create a consistent second tier competition for females across Australia by;
- Bringing the Women's premier league clubs into the pathway
- Identifying the gaps in the pathway, and providing strategies to close the gaps
- Raising standards in the clubs, with a focus on quality of coaching
- Creating a greater connection with the W-League

Considering the criteria, which is modelled on the NPL for boys and men, it is feasible to consider Capital Football and its clubs could collaborate to deliver a Women's NPL. It is reasonable to consider that, under a model developed in consultation with the local Football Community, a Women's NPL could assist provide an enhanced development opportunity for players, and create a brand to generate interest to promote participation and financial investment.

Women's Competition Review

Outline – 1 August 2016



DATA ANALYSIS

To facilitate the Review we have produced a series of tables, charts and graphs that aim to inform any dialogue. These tables are available in the “Women’s Competition Review – Data Analysis” document.

Key learnings from the analysis include;

- Capital Football female participation (27%) is above the National average (21%)
- Our female participation numbers have grown by just over 3% from 2015 to 2016
- Where results are an indicator, there is a significant gap in quality between the top and bottom half of the WPL competition in all 3 age grades
- 64% of all players registered to the WPL are age eligible for U18, suggesting there is no player development rationale for running both U20 and U18 age grades underpinning the 1st Grade competition
- The majority of our Women’s Premier League players seek a development and participation opportunity close to their place of residence
- Capital Football competition structures do not align with the FFA talented player pathway or Women’s NPL criteria. This may be obstructing our players from succeeding and progressing to the next level

MODELS FOR DISCUSSION

To facilitate discussion of ways competitions could be structured we have developed a number of models available in the “Women’s Competition Review – Models to Facilitate Discussion” document.

The models include;

Model 1 – Status Quo

Model 2 – Women’s Premier League 1 & 2 with Senior Promotion and Relegation

Model 3 – Women’s Premier League 1 & 2 with whole Club Promotion and Relegation

Model 4 – Women’s Premier and State League with no Promotion and Relegation

The models are presented to facilitate discussion regarding the optimal structure, and have been purposefully designed to illustrate a number of varied approaches.

It is important to note that they are not provided as a solution. The idea is not to select one of the options for implementation, rather seek feedback to the concepts these models communicate.

An example of this may be an individual supporting promotion and relegation outlined in Model 3, while preferring the community level age grades in Model 4.

It is reasonable to consider that the models will also spark debate regarding depth of age grades, scheduling of matches etc, all of which will aid in our review of the competition.

TIMELINE FOR CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

The online survey will remain open until Friday August 12 (two weeks).

Capital Football will review the feedback and propose a competition structure that reflects the feedback to the Board for their consideration, with a 2017 framework communicated to the Football Community shortly thereafter.